

# Kane County Farmer



**KANE COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU®**  
Farm. Family. Food.™

Enhance the quality of life for member families;  
Promote agriculture, farms & food; and,  
Advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

VOL. 87 NO. 7 JULY 2022

## Lenkaitises among Illinois' first '20 under 40' winners

Twenty farmers make up the first class of Illinois 20 Under 40 award winners. The award recognizes agricultural leaders, exceptional community citizens and role models.

From north to south, men and women who run a variety of farming operations were nominated for the award, and there was no shortage of variety among the winners. Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis, who jointly own and operate Lenkaitis Holsteins in Campton Hills were two of the 20 individuals who received the award. Other included:

Andrew Bowman, Oneida  
Austin Rincker, Moweaqua  
Blake Luckett, Ridgway  
Blane Olson, Elkhart  
Brandon Walter, Harvard  
Cameron McClure,  
Lawrenceville  
Chad Bell, Viola  
Dallas Glazik, Paxton

David Murphy, Tiskilwa  
Drew DeSutter, New Windsor  
Kenneth Mentzer, Assumption  
Kathryn Mentzer, Assumption  
Matt Rush, Fairfield  
Matthew Hulsizer, Galesburg  
Michael Nelson, Paxton  
Michael Ganschow, Walnut  
Sarah Tweet Landers, Mendota  
Tyler Schleich, Monmouth

Following the nomination window this spring, judges sifted through applications of more than 50 young farmers who were nominated for their efforts to better their farming operations and communities.

"We're honored to have the opportunity to recognize exceptional Illinois young farmers in collaboration with the Illinois ag family," said Rachel Peabody, director of communications at Illinois Soybean Association. "We look forward to following this first group to watch their impact in our

industry and at home in their communities."

The Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program had support from the following partner organizations: Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association, Illinois Grain & Feed Association and Illinois Pork Producers Association. Busey Bank and John Deere were corporate sponsors of the program.

Kane County Farm Bureau extends its congratulations to both Andy and Sarah for this well deserved recognition and thanks them for their efforts to build a brighter future for farms and farmers in Illinois and Kane County. Learn more about the 2022 Illinois 20 Under 40 award winners and the program at [il20under40.com](http://il20under40.com).



Andy and Sara Lenkaitis of rural St. Charles were both recently recognized as members of the inaugural class of Illinois "20 under 40" winners. The Lenkaitises operate Lenkaitis Holsteins west of St. Charles in Campton Township. Read more about the Lenkaitises and their farm on pages 2 and 6. Photo by Mike Orso.

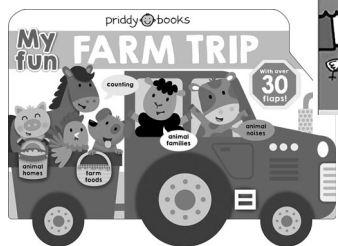
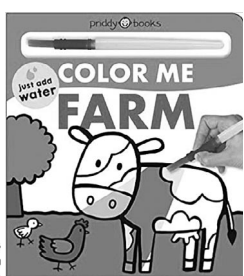
## Farm toy of the month

This month's "farm toy" is a reading roster perfect for road tripping or being cooped up on a too hot day. KCFB has an assortment of farm oriented book titles that are fun, colorful, and perfect for cooped up kids ages 2-6. *My Fun Farm Trip* is a "flap" book that

engages kids to learn farm animal sounds, counting, the products that are produced from farms and more by lifting flaps.

The *Color and Play Farm Activity Book* is portable and loaded with crosswords, connect-the-dots, coloring pages and more. *Color Me Farm* lets kids use plain water to color farm scenes again and again.

These fun titles and more are 10% off during the month of July. Stop by and stock up on entertainment on your way outta town! See you soon.



### KCFB CALENDAR JULY 2022

5 Office Closed/Independence Day  
7 Board of Directors, 7 pm  
8 Food for Thought Committee, 10 am  
11-15 IFB Young Leader Tour, Boston, MA  
13-17 Kane County Fair, Fairgrounds, St. Charles  
14 Fay's BBQ Drive-thru pork chop or chicken dinner, 4-7pm  
15 Board of Directors retreat KCFB Foundation – Scholarship Awards and Donor Recognition, Kane County Cougars stadium, Geneva  
21 Kane County Ag Cmte, 10 am, County Admin. Bldg.  
25-26 IFB County President's Conference, Champaign  
(All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

### July Featured Food Seasoned Pork Chops

Our featured product for this month is Inboden's Meats delicious seasoned pork chops – a KCFB member favorite! Each 5 lb. box comes in 8 oz. (10 per box) or 10 oz. (8 per box) and boneless and bone-in varieties. Each chop comes in a vacuum sealed plastic bag. Just thaw, cut it open and you're ready to cook up a perfectly seasoned, thick, juicy pork chop every time. It's a Farm Bureau favorite! Price is (not including tax) \$32.18 per box for members, Non-members pay \$35.63. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!

## Engel elected to KCFB Board

In its first "at-large" election in its 100+ year history, members elected Keith Engel of Hampshire to the 15-member Board of Directors of the Kane County Farm Bureau at the organization's 109th Annual Meeting on June 9. Engel replaces Nan Long of Big Rock who retired from the Board seat she was first elected to in 2014.

Other Directors re-elected to 3-year terms included Beth Gehrke of Elgin, Gerald Gaitsch of Huntley, Dale Pitstick of Elburn and Joe White of Kaneville.

Kane County Farm Bureau is governed by a Board of Directors of 15 farmer-members. Five members are elected each year to serve 3-year terms, by ballots mailed to members with voting privileges. Prior to the election in 2022, Directors were elected by District, not at-large.

Engel grew up on Luck-E Holsteins dairy farm west of Hampshire and owns registered

dairy cattle. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois in Animal Science with a Dairy emphasis. He is employed by GEA Farm Technologies where he serves as Business Development Manager for Hygiene for North America, working in areas of milk quality and milk harvest.

Before returning to Illinois, he served on the Dane County Farm Bureau board in Wisconsin for over 6 years. There he was active with

events, annual meeting, their leadership institute, Young Farmer Activities and in policy development. He also serves as Sec./Treas. of the National Mastitis Council.

Kane County Farm Bureau welcomes Engel to its Board of Directors and looks forward to his input on governance and policy development, and his assistance in designing and assisting with activities and events that add value to Farm Bureau membership.



Above: Keith Engel.



Right: KCFB President Joe White (L) presented a plaque recognizing exemplary service to KCFB, agriculture and farmers to Nan Long of Big Rock at the conclusion of the organization's 109th annual meeting. Long served as a Director for KCFB from 2014-22.

## KCFB elects officers for 2022-23

Kane County Farm Bureau elected officers at June Board of Director meeting, the first meeting following the association's 109th Annual Meeting. The

organization's bylaws call for officers including a President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer to be elected annually by the Board and from within the Board.

Re-elected to serve as officers for 2022-23 were Joe White of Kaneville as President and Wayne Schneider of West Dundee as

Vice-President. Elected to his first term on the Executive Committee of the organization was Chris Collins of Elburn as Secretary/Treasurer.

(continued on page 2)

**Don't Miss  
Out on Fresh  
Peaches!**

See page 8 to order  
Southern Illinois peaches  
for pick up in August.



Joe White  
President



Wayne Schneider  
Vice-President



Chris Collins  
Sec./Treas.



# Snapshots of influencers and changemakers

What does it take to be recognized by your peers, associations and industry for leadership and exemplary service to agriculture? What follows is a brief sketch of service to community, industry, associations and their professions that Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis have rendered *that we here at the Kane County Farm Bureau are aware of*. There are likely many more!

.....

### Community outreach

- Host farm tours for local groups (Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Families, etc)
- Host farm tours for teachers and students
- Speak at community meetings (Kiwanis, Rotary and others)
- Sponsored an Open House/ Ice Cream Social and fundraiser for hunger relief, 2018
- Sponsored a Public Open Houses in 2019
- Take dairy calves to community events (National Night Out, Ag-Days, County Fairs and community festivals)
- Host meeting and tours for lawmakers
- Planted pollinator patch with landowner and beekeeper in a

### residential neighborhood Industry Outreach

- Farm tours (in person and virtual) with Industry
- Influencer events with Dieticians, School Lunch Coordinators
- New Employee Orientation for Dairy Management Inc

**Andy & Sara Lenkaitis, St. Charles – Illinois 20 under 40 award winners**

- (In person and virtual)
- Andy spoke on the Producer Panel at the Wisconsin Association of Dairy Field Plant Representatives
- Hosted IL Dairy Technology Showcase in 2019

### Professional Outreach

- Tours for potential customers interested in milking equipment, upgrades
- International tour group hosts – Holland and Ukraine
- Professionally, Andy spends most of his time outside of Illinois, helping farms successfully transition to Automated Milking Systems across the country
- Hosted IL Holstein Association Picnic in 2019

### Association/positions

- Sarah is the secretary for the Illinois Holstein Association
- Andy is past president of the Illinois Purebred Dairy Cattle Association
- Sarah is a delegate to the Dairy Farmers of America Annual Meeting (DFA)
- Andy is a Director of the Kane County Farm Bureau, former Chair of Young Farmers

### Farm Notes

- Producing 4x as in 2014 on the same ‘footprint’
- Have received Milk Quality Awards from DFA
- Able to integrate winter cover crops as additional forage source for the cows
- Expanded forage production outside of traditional corn and hay. Have grown Triticale, Cereal Rye, Italian Ryegrass, Winter Wheat, Sorghum Sudan grass.
- Have found a seasonal market for manure solids to landscapers and offer free solids for local neighbors
- Have grown bull calf market by crossing Angus and Wagyu bulls on Holstein cows to make a viable beef calf.



## Future farmer checking fields

*Future Young Farmer, Hudson Hawkins (age 2, of Sycamore, son of Garrett & Meghan Hawkins), helps to check his family's cornfield out in Maple Park last month. He reminds you all to eat, shop, and support your local farmer! (photo credit, Brett Dienst, KCFB Young Farmer).*

*Welcome new members*

You receive the *Kane County Farmer* because you are a Farm Bureau member. If you are a farm operator or owner, you benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to agriculture and your way of life.

If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

We appreciate your membership and continued support and we welcome your comments on the content of the *Farmer*. We encourage you to make recommendations about farm, home, food, natural resources, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history-related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

## Raging Waves—IL's Largest Outdoor Water Park!

Head on out for some fun in the sun (and water) this summer! Grab your family and friends and check out Aussie-themed Raging Waves, located just south of Kane County in Yorkville. Stop by Kane County

**45% savings**

Farm Bureau to purchase individual discounted tickets for only \$22.00! Regularly priced tickets are \$44.99 (for over 42" tall) but with your Farm Bureau membership discount, you will

save 45% off of the original price! A limit of 5 tickets per purchase – call 630-584-8660 to check availability.

To purchase discounted tickets, click on <https://tickets.ragingwaves.com> store name "KANE".

## Letters of thanks from scholarship recipients

Wonder what today's youth are up to? The KCFB Foundation regularly receives notes of thanks and appreciation from Foundation scholars for helping finance their dreams of working for the future of agriculture, farms and food. We will reproduce as space permits to share these thanks with our donors, who make these college scholarships possible.

— Steve Arnold, Editor

.....

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation,

*I am writing to thank you for your generosity over the past four years with scholarship support for my college education.*

*I am incredibly fortunate to have a great organization so close to home that believes in supporting those studying agriculture. This May, I graduated summa cum laude with a double major in Soil and Crop Science and Environmental Horticulture with a minor in Plant Breeding and Genetics. A few weeks after graduation, I started at North Dakota State University to continue my education and I am working as a graduate research assistant on a forage crop project to obtain my masters of science in plant science. I could not have been so successful as an undergraduate without the KCFB's support.*

*Thank you again for your generosity and giving.*

Sincerely,  
Anastasia Kurth

.....

KCFB Foundation –

*I am very grateful to be selected by the KCFB Foundation to receive a John Buck Memorial Scholarship.*

*I just finished my sophomore year at Cedarville University as a computer engineer. I am really enjoying my degree and looking forward to continuing in the fall! I'll be taking classes like algorithms and electronics.*

*This summer I'll be working at FONA International as an intern, a flavoring company in Geneva. I am really looking forward to it.*

*Last year, I was able to work at FONA and gain a ton of practical experience. Once again, I am appreciative to receive this scholarship. Have a great week!*

Sincerely,  
Willem Vandermeij

## Officers

(continued from page 1)

The officers will work with the organization's Board of Directors to guide and govern the 14,000 member association as it develops public policies in the best interests of farms and farmers, and to establish goals and objectives for the future. It will also work with management and staff to implement those policies, to develop programs, services and activities to serve all Farm Bureau members, and to maintain professional and welcoming facilities at its headquarters on Randall Road in St. Charles.

### KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2022 THRU DECEMBER 2022

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X	X						
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X						
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X						
K. ENGEL <sup>^</sup>							X					
J. ENGEL		X	X	X	*	X						
G. GAITSCH	*	X	*	X	X	X						
B. GEHRKE	*	X		X	X	X						
W. KECK	X	X	*	X	X	X						
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X						
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	*	X	X	X	X						
D. LEHRER	*	*	*	*	*	*						
A. LENKAITIS			*		X							
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X	X		X						
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X	X						
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X						

\* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Elected to Board June 2022.

### Kane County Farmer

**KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY**

Steven J. Arnold, Editor

Audre Pack, Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator

Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator

Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38

Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles

PHONE: 630-584-8660

info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday

(USPS No. 289700)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kane County Farmer 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174

Periodical Postage • Paid to St. Charles, IL 60174  
Year Subscription: \$2.00

**Joe White**  
President

15N720 Walker Rd.  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
Elburn, IL 60119  
630-878-1726

**Wayne Schneider**  
Vice President

721 Lindsay Lane  
West Dundee, IL 60118  
847-428-0488

**Chris Collins**  
Secretary/Treasurer

1143 Anderson  
Elburn, IL 60119  
630-934-4642

**Craig Bradley**  
37W791 Orchard Lane  
Elgin, IL 60124  
847-888-2380

**Bill Collins**  
1125 Lewis Rd.  
Geneva, IL 60134  
630-484-6852

**Joe Engel**

15N587 Walker Rd.  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
847-347-5561

**Keith Engel**

15N587 Walker Rd.  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
630-640-3665

**Gerald Gaitsch**  
10613 Brittany Ave.  
Huntley, IL 60142  
847-669-2003

**Beth Gehrke**  
12N860 US Hwy. 20  
Elgin, IL 60124  
847-697-2538

**William Keck**  
P.O. Box 281  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554  
(630) 466-4030

**Mike Kenyon**

1250 E. Main St.  
South Elgin, IL 60177  
847-741-1818

**Karl Kettelkamp**

47W407 Main Street Rd.  
Elburn, IL 60119  
630-365-2713

**Andrew Lenkaitis**  
6N707 Corron Rd.  
St. Charles, IL 60175  
630-513-9980

**Donna Lehrer**  
7S027 Jericho Rd.  
Big Rock, IL 60511  
630-556-3476

**Dale Pitstick**  
2N118 Pouley Rd.  
Elburn, IL 60119  
630-816-0223



# Manure as good as liquid gold

By Mike Orso, FarmWeek  
 EDITOR'S NOTE: Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis were both recently named "Illinois 20 under 40" award winners for their leadership, innovation, community service and commitment to agriculture. Illinois Farm Bureau's News and Communications Strategist Mike Orso visited the Lenkaitis farm early this year and filed this report.

With the cost of mined and manufactured fertilizer breaking records, some farmers may want to reexamine livestock and poultry manure as a crop nutrient supplement or replacement.

"It's going to be very valuable, no doubt about it," said Gary Schnitkey, University of Illinois farm management specialist. "You can reduce your fertilizer costs by half using manure. Easily."

Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis keep manure generated by their dairy cows beneath a free stall dairy barn they constructed about five years ago near St. Charles. Since then, they've grown the herd from 55 cows to 85.

"I think it's liquid gold," said Andy. "That was part of the reason we actually put in a manure

pit beneath our barn to keep the rainwater out of it. We can mix it up easily so that we have a good homogenous manure product. We separate the solids out so that all that is left is the liquid and the fine particles which contain the bulk of your nutrients."

Schnitkey believes transporting manure remains one of its biggest challenges, but if you have a source available you might want to give it a second look to reduce the high cost of commercial fertilizer and to build soil organic matter.

"That manure has value," said Schnitkey. "Crop farmers should be willing to pay for it."

The Lenkaitis' use a significant portion of their manure on their crop land but also rely on area farmers to utilize what they cannot.

"I wish my crop farmer neighbors would feel the same about it, they will happily take it, but they don't want to pay me for it," said Andy. "I think now they might change their tune a little bit."

To estimate manure's value and determine how much commercial nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus can be replaced, Schnitkey advises users to have manure samples analyzed. Online manure value calculators exist, including one from the University of Minnesota.



"People need to think about manure more," said Schnitkey. "I don't see the price of fertilizer coming down any time soon."

Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis use their manure as part of a carefully planned rotation of crops that include alfalfa, corn silage, Italian ryegrass, sorghum sudangrass, triticale, winter rye and winter wheat.

"What has allowed us to grow more feed for the cows on the same ground is utilizing that

manure and different forage crops," said Andy. "We can double crop forage with manure since we're doing a lot of short (season) corn silage, pull that off, put something else on there, put that manure on there in between and make that ground suitable for another crop."

The couple utilize two Gea R9500 robotic milkers, where cows stroll in and out three times on average in a 24-hour period. Some pay a visit to the robots as many as six times per day. They store manure beneath the sprawling barn, which utilizes curtains and fans for climate control and a robot to push feed.

"The technology is always on, so you have to be ready to fix something or understand when something's broken at a moment's notice," said Sarah. "You have to do some detective work. You'll get an alarm, but you kind of have to

marry the alarm with what you're seeing to understand what needs to be fixed."

They also farm in a county of more than 500,000 residents, so transporting and applying manure can be a challenge.

"I'm probably not everyone's favorite neighborhood farmer at certain times of the year," said Andy. "It's a lot of little things in my mind, being cognizant of how late we're running equipment at night, when you're hauling manure, when you are going to be on the road."

The couple did not expect everyone to be pleased with their expansion, but they say they most appreciate that they reinvested in a farm that has been in their family for four decades. They continue to grow the herd slowly.

"We want to take care of our people, we want to take care of the cows and we want to be good neighbors," Sarah said. "That's at the center of everything we do."

# Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom grant opportunities

Illinois Ag in the Classroom is excited to be offering two classroom grant opportunities for Illinois teachers for the upcoming school year! Educators can apply for \$250 in ag-accurate books or \$300 for a new ag-themed project for your classroom. Applications are due Friday, October 14. Apply for the Book Grant: <https://iaitc.co/bookgrants>.

Apply for the Project Grant: <https://iaitc.co/projectgrants>.

Join IATIC on Tuesday, August 9 at 10:00 for our hour-long "Get-a-Grant" Workshop to learn tips and tricks to maximize your chances of getting your grant approved.

Sign up for the Get-a-Grant Workshop: [https://ilfb.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_V9UtEZyNT06ZhCLsMuYatw](https://ilfb.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V9UtEZyNT06ZhCLsMuYatw).



# A lovely surprise!

Late last month, as former 4th grade teacher, Anna Richards of Sugar Grove was cleaning out her classroom for the last time as she was retiring after 20+ years in the Kaneland school district, she came across some hidden gems.

Years ago, Richards applied for the book grant through Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom. Through her efforts she received a grant that allowed her to purchase four different sets of Ag-Literacy books at various reading levels



to incorporate into her classroom about ag-related topics such as soybeans, wheat, and farm facts. Richards utilized

these books in her classroom and now has returned them to KCFB to stock our new Little Lending Library!

Teachers, if you are interested in similar opportunities for integrating agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas for your classroom next year or would like more information about the grant application from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, please visit: <http://iaitc.co/bookgrants> or email Kelcee at [aitc@kane.cfb.com](mailto:aitc@kane.cfb.com).

# IDOA offers agrichemical container recycling programs

The Illinois Department of Agriculture annually cooperates with various segments of the agrichemical industry to operate a plastic pesticide container-recycling program. Single-day collection sites at agrichemical facilities are scheduled near the end of the application season. Pesticide users can bring containers for granulation and shipment to a national contractor that utilizes the plastic for the manufacture of other agrichemical-related products.

has established permanent collection sites that are open throughout the year for the collection and granulation of plastic containers. Over 1.6 million pounds of plastic have been collected since the program started more than 20 years ago.

2022 Single Day Collection Sites				
AM indicates collection site hours are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.				
PM indicates collection site hours are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.				
8/3 AM	DeKalb/Kirkland	Helena Chemical Co.	Dan Moore	815-522-3251
8/3 PM	Kane/Maple Park	CHS Inc.	Mike Buchanan	630-365-5027
8/4 AM	McHenry/Marengo	Conserv FS	Brett Wolter	815-568-7211
8/4 PM	Winnebago/Rockford	Conserv FS	Mike Webb	815-703-4612

## Kane County Fair a mid-July must

**Kane County Fair – Midway Hours of Operation**  
 Wednesday: 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
 Thursday: 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
 Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.  
 Saturday: 12:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.  
 Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
 Note: Exhibit halls close two hour earlier than Midway.

**Admission**  
 Wednesday: FREE admission  
 Thursday: \$5; children under 3 FREE  
 Senior citizens over 62: FREE Thursday until 5:00 p.m.  
 Military with I.D.: FREE Thursday until 5:00 p.m.  
 Friday – Sunday: \$10/adult; \$5/children 3-12; FREE/children under 3  
 Season Tickets: \$20.00

**FREE acts found throughout Midway**  
**NEW THIS YEAR: WORLD OF WONDERS AND TEXAS TOMMY'S WILD WEST REVUE**  
 Wheels of Agriculture game show  
 Petting Zoo • Kiddy Land  
 Swifty Swine Racing Pigs  
 Fantasy Amusements Ride Co.  
 Miller Lite Sound Stage  
 World of Wonders  
 Texas Tommy's Wild West Revue  
 Classic JP Car Show; Saturday and Sunday all day  
 1PM 4-H BLUE RIBBON SALES IN LIVESTOCK ARENA  
 Rides – Provided by Fantasy Amusements

**Wednesday:** Free admission to fairgrounds; \$25 unlimited rides from 3:00 p.m. to close  
**Thursday:** Customer Appreciation Day! \$30 fair admission and unlimited rides from 3:00 p.m. to close (if purchased at gate)  
**Friday:** Super Saver Day! \$25 unlimited rides from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (does not include admission) Sales stop 4:00 p.m.  
**Saturday:** Community Day! \$25 unlimited rides from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. (does not include admission) Sales stop at 4:00 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Fair Finale Day! \$25 unlimited rides from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. (does not include admission) Sales stop at 4:00 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Last Blast! \$5 fair admission and \$20 unlimited rides from 6:00 p.m. to close  
 4-H Members: \$15 unlimited rides all day, Thursday only; must be purchased in advance through 4-H office

THURSDAY: No live music; just beer  
 FRIDAY: 5PM – 7 PM: The Two Beer Tommy Band  
 8PM – 10PM: Pino Farina  
 SATURDAY: 8PM – 10:30PM: Hillbilly Rockstarz  
 SUNDAY: 7PM – 9PM: Hi Infidelity

Kane County Farm Bureau  
**FOUNDATION**  
 for the future of farms & food

**July 14**

**Drive Thru BBQ Fundraiser**

**Please reserve:**

Pork chop dinners     Chicken quarter dinners  
 Pork chop/chicken combo dinners

**Please enclose payment of \$16 per dinner. Make checks payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Visa / MC \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

CRV \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: KCFB Foundation • 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660.**

In addition, the Department



### AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



### Hello Kane County!

When was the last time you committed and read a really good book from front to back? I'm not talking about the non-fiction or picture type book. I am talking about the ones that make you truly stop and think and inspires you to change in your life for the better. A personal-development book.

Now you may be sitting there thinking, "Kelc, there are not enough hours in the day to sit and read!" Or "I have better things to do than to sit and read a silly book," or my favorite, "I'm not much of a reader." Been there, done that. And that's where I will make the argument that you don't find the time, you make the time for things that are important to you. There is always room for improvement in every aspect of your life so why not make reading, learning, and growing be a part of that as well?

There are 24 hours in a day and how we choose to use those says a lot about us. We all have a million things going on in our daily lives and (sometimes) wish there were more hours in the day.

And with the hustle and bustle of our daily lives comes the excuse list for not having the time to sit and read. Trust me, I know it to be true because I've been there before.

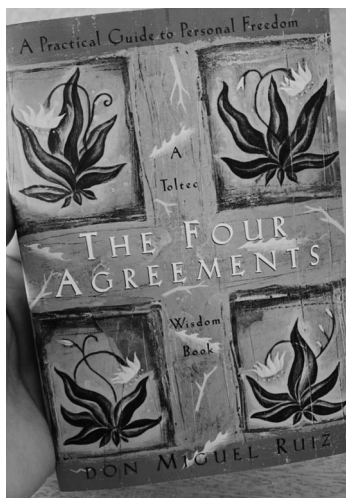
However, once I truly decided to make reading a part of my daily routine, that's when the magic happened.

Last month, I wrapped up *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. When I say it gave me a new perspective of how I view myself, my life, and the world around me – I mean it. And for those who know me, I am a pretty optimistic, positive, and driven person a majority of the time and this book gave me a new outlook. It's a short book with a powerful message that I encourage you all to dive into for yourself.

The title itself lays the foundation for what the book is precisely about. We make thousands of agreements, with our

spouses, children, family, friends, but the ones that mean the most are the ones we make with ourselves. These are the agreements that shape our personality, how we behave, what we believe, and how we view the world. However, the dark side to these agreements is that many of our agreements make us suffer and keep us in a rut whether we like to admit it or not. If we want to live a life full of joy, love, happiness, and fulfillment we have to find the strength to break those "old" agreements or beliefs to lay the foundation for the new and improved ones. Ruiz goes into a much deeper explanation for why we stay stuck in our old agreements due to fear, past

experiments, trauma, and self-abuse; I know it sounds harsh but there is a lot of truth to his reasoning and breaking it down helps us better understand how to create new and improved agreements. To live a life in our own "personal dream of heaven," we must adopt the four agreements. The first agreement is to be impeccable with your word, meaning say what you mean. Ruiz explains how our word is like a sword with two edges, one



edge is the misuse of the word which can destroy and lead to suffering, or the second edge which can create love, beauty and freedom. It all boils down to how you use your word, so speak intentionally and with integrity. The second is to not take anything personally. When we do, we set ourselves up to suffer for nothing. The sooner we learn that what others do and say is a reflection of them and their realities and not our own, the sooner we can create immunity from needless misery. The third is don't make assumptions. We all know this can be easier said than done sometimes, but the sooner we understand the importance of clear communication and asking questions the sooner we can avoid a life of drama, sadness, and anger. The last and final agreement is to always do your best – in every aspect of your life. No two days are the same in our ever changing world, but as long as we commit to doing our best each and every day it becomes a little easier than the day before and before we know it, it is a daily habit and a part of who we are.

I encourage you to pick up the book to get into the nuts and bolts of the lessons in the pages because what resonates with me in certain aspects may or may not resonate with you. However, the overall message of the book lays the blueprint for how to live a life full of joy, happiness, and freedom. I think all too often we can get caught up in the wrong things and thoughts and for whatever reason, we stay stuck in negative-energy sucking cycle and just go through the motions in life – or worse, deflect that onto others and bring them down too. When we take a moment to reflect and truly become intentional and genuine with our words and actions the sooner we see how we are in control of what direction and the journey our life will go. We get this one life so why not live it with pure intentions, joy, happiness and love? If/when we do, it creates a ripple effect for those in our lives to do the same and thus makes the world a much more positive and happy place to be!

### Happy July!

### Book of the month

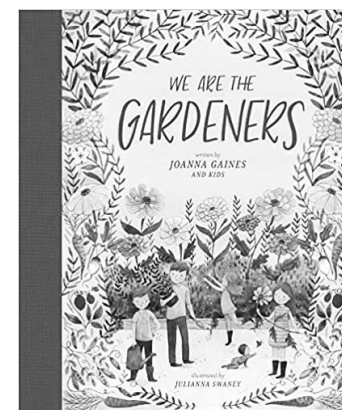
Ask anyone who farms and/or has a garden – many life lessons are learned throughout the process – the good, the bad, and the ugly. Both require a lot of hard work, patience, trial-and-error, and nurturing similar to most of the important things in life.

The book of the month for July is *We Are the Gardeners*, written by Joanna Gaines and illustrated by Julianna Swaney. In this charming story, the Gaines family share how their family's adventure of growing a garden all began with one potted fern, a plan, and a shared family dream. The Gaines family quickly realized, like building a house, growing a garden requires a strong foundation of good soil. And the importance of keeping the pesky bullies of the soil, AKA weeds, out because they steal water, sunlight, and nutrients from fruits and veggies that are trying to grow big and strong! Through the many lessons learned, the Gaines family realizes it is not only their responsibility to grow a garden, but to nurture and protect it and by doing so they can reap the fruits of their labor!

Similar to life, gardening for

the Gaines family is full of many ups and downs, lessons learned and lasting memories. They remind us that every failure or setback teaches us something new and as Chip Gaines encourages his kiddos, "... every hard thing we choose to do makes us braver for the next time."

To see the lessons and discovery of bloom, come on into the Kane County Farm Bureau office and visit the KCFB Library to check out *We Are the Gardeners*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.



*We Are The Gardeners* by Joanna Gaines, illustrated by Julianna Swaney

## Helping you protect what matters most



Robert J. Effner, Sr. St Charles (630)584-0001



Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155



Kelly Landorf St Charles 630-762-1328



Jeff Jones St Charles 630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff St Charles 630-492-5324



Donna Tonovitz St Charles 630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo St Charles 630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges Aurora 630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245



Deb Stob Geneva 630-208-0890



Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado Elgin 847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0004



Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434



Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500



Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737



Charles Quick Hampshire 630-683-2100



David Berreles Hampshire 630-683-2100



Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600



Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600

\*COUNTRY Financial® is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois. 1220-509HC\_20503-6/2/2022



### Bucket Raffle donations!

Did you know that the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation has provided over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local students to pursue college degrees? By donating an item to our Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction fundraiser, you will be supporting our efforts to increase classroom agricultural education and to provide college scholarships for local students. The Kane County Fair is one

of the most widely attended events in the area with numbers reaching over 100,000 people each year. We hope you will consider promoting your business in our fundraising effort.

Please feel free to contact us at (630) 584-8660 with any questions or concerns. A week before the fair we will stop by to collect prize donations if you wish to contribute.

**Did you know?**

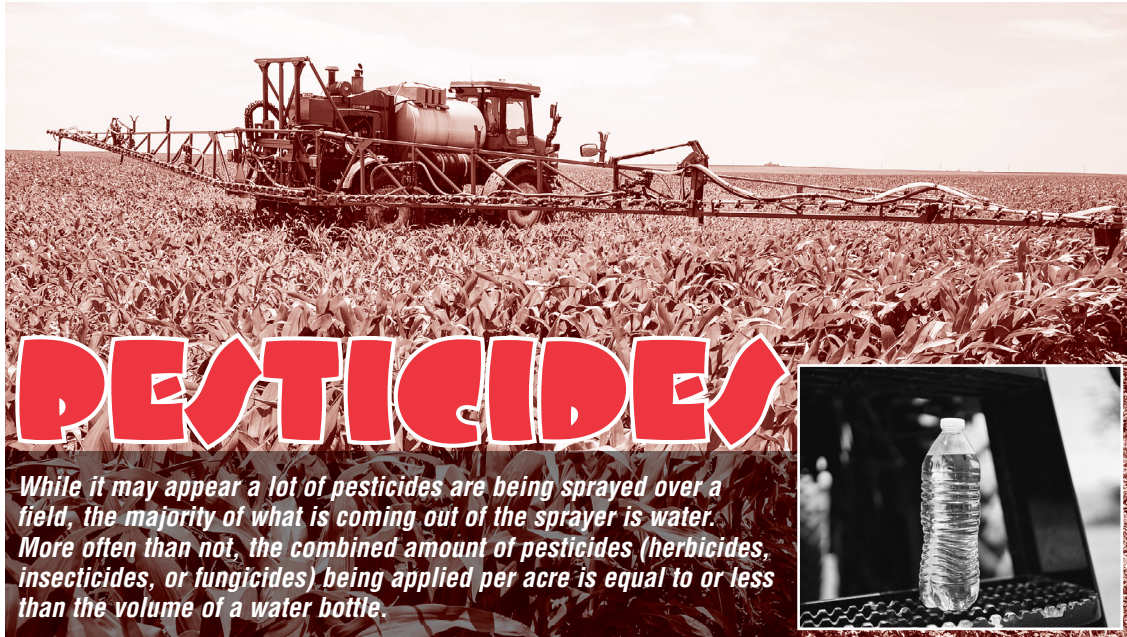
**It ain't the heat, it's the humidity. The process of losing water from leaves is known as transpiration. An acre of corn transpires about 3,000-4,000 gallons (11,400-15,100 liters) of water each day!**





# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



**PESTICIDES**  
While it may appear a lot of pesticides are being sprayed over a field, the majority of what is coming out of the sprayer is water. More often than not, the combined amount of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides) being applied per acre is equal to or less than the volume of a water bottle.



## Paper plate watermelon suncatchers craft

### Materials

- Pink tissue paper (cut into 1 inch squares)
- Black tissue paper (cut into 1 inch squares)
- White paper plates
- Adhesive clear laminate shelf liner
- Green paint & paint brush
- Tape
- Scissors

### Instructions

- Cut the paper plate in half & cut off the "plate" part leaving only the textured rim
- Paint the bottom half of the textured rim green
- Cut a small rectangle of clear shelf liner (big enough to fit inside the space in your paper plate)

Cut small circles from the black tissue paper and place them directly onto the sticky side of the shelf liner  
Next, place small squares of pink tissue paper onto the sticky side of the shelf liner  
When the shelf liner is covered, cut another small rectangle (about the same size) & place it over the tissue paper  
Trim any ragged ends  
Place the tissue paper rectangle into the paper plate (seed side out) & secure it with tape  
Trim off excess edges to create a watermelon slice  
Hang in the window with tape, admire, and enjoy!  
*This craft & more ideas may be found here: <https://kidsactivities->*

[blog.com/85854/paper-plate-watermelon-suncatchers/](https://blog.com/85854/paper-plate-watermelon-suncatchers/)



## What a cool treat – Strawberry-watermelon popsicles

### Ingredients

- 2 cups watermelon (cut without rinds)
- 2 cups strawberries (stems removed)
- 1 juice of lemon
- Popsicle mold

### Directions:

With adult supervision, blend watermelon, strawberries, and lemon juice in a blender until liquefied.  
Once liquefied, pour into popsicle mold and freeze 4-6 hours  
Serve and enjoy on a hot summer day!  
This recipe found and more ideas may be found here: <https://www.courtneysweets.com/strawberry-watermelon-popsicles/>.

[com/strawberry-watermelon-popsicles/](https://www.courtneysweets.com/strawberry-watermelon-popsicles/).



## More information about pesticide application

Pesticides are incredibly important at this time of year to keep damage from insects and diseases at bay.  
Farmers follow safety protocols and best practices to ensure proper application of pesticides

for the safety of both farmer applicators and the environment.  
Learn how farmers decide when it's time to apply a pesticide – and what it means for you – here: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/>

## It's almost sweet corn time!

Visit Kane County Farmstands and farmers markets for the taste of summer!



## Happy Independence Day!

## Pesticides support food supply

S	E	F	R	M	L	H	H	C	G	M	C	M	C	B	D	S	M	W	S	Advancements
G	R	C	E	R	T	I	F	I	E	D	O	T	T	B	E	P	V	T	E	Applicators
C	C	O	W	R	A	C	K	X	D	V	V	N	T	J	V	Q	V	P	D	Approved
L	O	V	T	B	E	M	I	F	Z	H	E	H	E	E	O	H	O	X	I	Beetles
S	L	N	Z	A	A	D	D	C	B	H	R	D	S	R	R	Y	P	L	C	Certified
Y	K	L	T	N	C	I	U	P	S	K	C	F	T	O	P	F	F	I	I	Control
X	F	O	M	R	S	I	D	C	O	M	R	D	E	I	P	A	Y	C	G	Cover Crops
B	T	A	R	E	O	S	L	K	E	R	O	I	D	G	A	C	F	E	N	Diseases
R	D	R	A	F	E	L	H	P	F	H	P	F	N	E	C	C	M	N	U	Food Supply
E	F	S	R	L	W	M	C	U	P	U	S	K	H	S	N	D	S	S	F	Fungicides
B	E	U	T	Q	R	D	T	A	Z	A	B	E	H	K	E	E	B	E	S	Herbicides
S	P	E	Y	L	P	P	U	S	D	O	O	F	C	T	D	C	T	D	E	Insecticides
D	E	I	N	S	E	C	T	I	C	I	D	E	S	I	T	H	T	L	D	Insects
B	Y	W	D	K	W	L	T	G	V	F	Z	N	C	H	R	U	T	S	I	Licensed
S	T	N	E	M	E	C	N	A	V	D	A	I	K	E	R	B	N	O	C	Man-Made
I	S	D	E	E	W	N	C	U	X	C	B	C	A	E	P	S	L	H	I	Naturally
P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	W	T	O	R	F	P	W	C	T	Pesticides
Y	L	L	A	R	U	T	A	N	E	P	E	P	O	C	A	F	J	P	S	Protection
J	Z	Y	H	R	R	Z	L	H	N	N	T	X	M	D	U	W	J	Y	E	Reduce
U	I	A	K	O	U	H	U	Z	U	X	R	P	F	E	H	L	J	J	P	Tested
																				Threaten
																				Weeds

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by July 15, 2022 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

## — Jokes —

Why do watermelons have fancy weddings?  
*Because they cantaloupe!*

.....

When do you go on red and stop on green?  
*When you're eating a watermelon!*

.....

Why did the cantaloupe jump into the pool?  
*It wanted to become a watermelon!*

Jokes provided by:  
<https://www.foodjokes.one/fruit/melon/watermelon?page=2>

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Robin Chandler** of Aurora, this month's word search winner. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search puzzle. For her participation, she receives a weather themed prize. Thank you, Robin, for reading the *Kane County Farmer*, and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

## June is ...

### National

Independence Day	4th
Graham Crackers Day	5th
Fried Chicken Day	6th
Macaroni Day	7th
Strawberry Sundae Day	7th
Sugar Cookie Day	9th
Barn Day	10th
Kitten Day	10th
Pick Blueberries Day	10th
Blueberry Muffin Day	11th
Cow Appreciation Day	12th
Pecan Pie Day	12th
French Fry Day	13th
Mac & Cheese Day	14th
Fresh Spinach Day	16th
Cherry Day	16th
Ice Cream Day	17th
Peach Ice Cream Day	17th
Hot Dog Day	21st
Vanilla Ice Cream Day	23rd
Hot Fudge Sundae Day	25th
Milk Chocolate Day	28th
Chili Dog Day	28th
Chicken Wing Day	29th
Lasagna Day	29th
Cheesecake Day	30th

Ice Cream Month  
Baked Beans Month  
Blueberry Month  
Grilling Month  
Watermelon Month  
Horseradish Month

Courtesy of: <https://nationaltoday.com/july-holidays/>



# Sycamore students visit Campton Hills dairy farm

Herds of fourth graders, teachers and chaperones from two Sycamore grade schools visited the Lenkaitis Holsteins dairy farm in Campton Hills on a bright, cool Monday, May 23rd to learn a little about dairy farming.

The groups of fourth graders gathered initially in a large viewing room next to the barn to see a brief video and hear Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis explain a little about the cows and the history of the farm. Then they were off – one group to the calf barn, the other to the dairy barn for tours.

The kids gathered in the calf barn (called the nursery) and visited with the calves while Sarah Lenkaitis answered lots of questions about calf behavior and care. The students were amazed to learn that newborn calves begin standing within a half hour of birth and tip the scales at around 80 pounds.

The newborn calves are penned in the nursery to monitor their health and let them build their immune systems. Each new calf is named in an alliterative fashion. Mama Flame's calf is Flair; Heidi's calves are Hattie and Hottie and so on. Sarah

1. Students and chaperones gathered in the bright sunshine near the milk tank outside the dairy barn before going inside for brief presentation by Andy Lenkaitis. After the presentation, the students entered the dairy barn to learn about cattle feed and care, and visit with the curious cows.

2. After visiting the cows, students got to meet and greet the newborn calves in the "nursery barn." Sara Lenkaitis explained calf care to the students and then fielded a lot of perceptive questions from the fourth graders.

3. "Frank", the robot rolls down the feed barn aisle, distributing food to the cows.

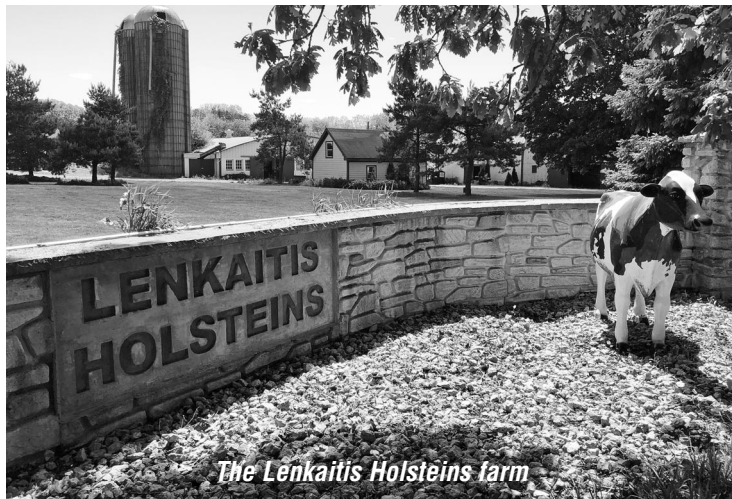
4. The milk tanker truck pulled in Monday morning, an every other day occurrence. Dave the driver hopped out and into the milk room to hook up a hose to the milk tank and activate pumps to pump milk into the tanker truck. He delivers Lenkaitis Holsteins milk to local dairy processors.

5. This curious Holstein wanted a closer look at the activities.

describes this as "the fun part of keeping track of lineage" and the Lenkaitis family is creative in their naming. Each calf also

cattle feed, care, and the milking process to the groups.

Cows are milked each day by a robotic milking machine.



The Lenkaitis Holsteins farm

receives a registered Holstein number on an ear tag, and gets a diet of colostrum, grain and water. The nursery is a comfortable, cool building with fans and good air flow, and the calves are closely monitored during their nursery stay, but typically thrive on the diet and the quiet and routine of the nursery.

The cow barn is an open, airy building with a wide aisle and curious cows, who gathered at the pen railing to watch and listen as Andy Lenkaitis explained

Cows are able to enter the milking stall whenever they feel ready. Their teats are washed and the milker attaches. Sarah said this is a comfortable routine for the cow and reduces health problems because the cow is milked regularly according to its comfort and need.

The cow's food is "swept" by a barrel shaped robot that glides silently down the aisle, pushing a mixture of hay, grains and supplemental nutrients toward the cows.



6a and 6b. Andy Lenkaitis explained the consistency and quantity of food that the cows consume each day. The sign spells it out.

**What does a cow eat?**  
 Cow "TMR" (Total Mixed Ration)  
 Ingredients

- 34 lbs Corn Silage
- 19 lbs Alfalfa Haylage
- 11 lbs Soybean meal, protein and mineral mix
- 10 lbs Robot Pellet (Corn, Wheat and Soybeans)
- 7 lbs Ground Corn
- 4.5 lbs Corn Gluten Pellets
- 4 lbs Whole Fuzzy Cotton Seed
- 2 lbs Chopped Wheat Straw

Combine all ingredients and mix well.  
 Serves: 1 cow

6b.



4.



6a.



5.

Freshly gathered milk travels via pipelines in the ceiling to a temperature controlled milk tank in the milk room. It is pumped into a refrigerated tanker truck that comes every other day, hooks a line to the tank, and pumps out the contents. The milk is then delivered to local processing centers. The milk is not touched by human hands during this entire journey, and the milk tank and pipelines are robotically cleaned and sanitized regularly.

A veterinarian visits the Lenkaitis farm each month to check overall health of the herd and to perform ultrasounds if needed, on expectant cows. Each cow wears a collar that transmits data to the Lenkaitis family and farm employees. The radio transmitter tracks the amount of milk produced at

each milking, determines how much feed to dispense to each cow as it is being milked, and if a cow lies in once place for over six hours, or registers a fever, the farmers are alerted and the cow is checked immediately. If the cow is going into labor, she is giving a private delivery area.

More than 20 parents, adult chaperones and teachers attended the dairy farm tour in morning and afternoon shifts, to supervise the 100+ students and learn more about technology and animal care in the dairy industry. Kane County Farm Bureau, along with Midwest Dairy and the American Dairy Association provided lesson plans, Dairy Ag Mags and other educational resources for the students and teachers for follow-up lessons on the farms, food and the environment.

## THE NATURE OF NATURE

By Alice Macha  
Communications Coordinator



I found myself with a small, but challenging conundrum recently. I planted hanging baskets for my front porch in May, chock full ofimpatiens and begonia boliviensis. I look forward every year to watching the plants root, fill in and eventually encompass the basket.

When I noticed at the end of May one basket was less full and robust than the other, I took it down for a check up and found myself face to face with a mourning dove who was silently sitting on a nest with two eggs. The dove sat motionless, peering at me with its blue ringed eye as I peered back. I took a couple of quick photos of the dove and then watered around the nest, at which point the dove flew a few feet away in a burst of squeaky wing flutter. Its mate appeared from nowhere and landed on the garage roof to provide moral support. I rehung the basket and the dove was back on the nest within 5 minutes.

I posted the photos on a Midwest birding Facebook page and people began giving advice. "Don't take the basket down to water! Sacrifice the flowers in favor of the bird!"

And so began my dance with nature. I am the caretaker of the flowers and they are doing what I asked them to do – settle into their baskets, make a network of roots, and tolerate wind, downpours and hot afternoon sun to provide me a summer of bright color. It is pure pleasure to sit on the porch on summer evenings and watch bees, wasps, hummingbirds and butterflies dance between the baskets, going from bloom to bloom. I want the flowers to prosper until mother nature sends a frost our way. After all,

I put them there. They have no idea they are expendable.

The doves had no idea their nest was expendable. The baskets are partially sheltered from the elements, out of reach of earth bound predators and the flowering plants provided cover from the prying eyes of hawks and crows. The doves thought they had chosen wisely and my presence didn't enter into their decision.

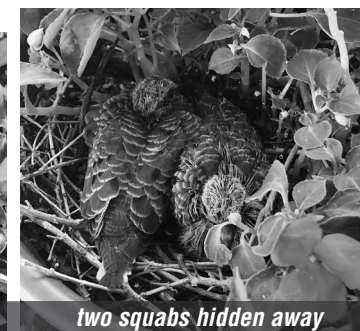
A triangle of tenuous tolerance and respect for each other grew. I clambered on a small ladder each evening so I could see well enough to water around the dove nest, disturbing the birds as little as possible. The flowers filled in around the nest – the dove was just a tip of a tail peeking out. This was excellent protection for the nest. I was pleased to watch my flowers flourish and the progress of "my" little dove family.

The two eggs hatched in mid-June and a parent was always on the nest, protecting the chicks to the best of its ability. There was no mess under the nest – they were tidy tenants. I have a newfound respect for mourning doves.

This is nature. This is life. We humans are all part of nature. We all must dance around each other, tolerating, making concessions, biting our tongues, offering support, because it is life. It is the nature of human interaction. We cannot hit, bellow, bully, or shoot our way out of it – we must learn to get along because we all depend on each other. We have no idea we are expendable. It is a simple lesson I am learning from a few flowers and a family of doves. Fitting teachers in these trying times.



Two dove eggs ...



two squabs hidden away



# Monarchs up 35% in Mexico

By Kay Shipman, FarmWeek  
More monarch butterflies spent the winter in Mexican mountain forests compared to the previous year, Mexico's

Commission for Protected Areas reported recently. Known as the eastern monarch population, the monarchs that overwinter in Mexico

migrate north through Texas and the Southern Plains, up through the Northern Plains, Illinois and the Midwest before moving into the Great Lakes region.

age," Zaya continued. "If we're hit with another extreme year like 2012, or even worse two extreme years, the species could be on the brink of extinction. For that reason, conservation efforts along the migration route and especially here in their summer breeding range are urgently important," he said.

programs, which he described as "game changers for pollinator conservation in Illinois." "CRP and other programs like that are going to have a huge impact on conservation of pollinators and other creatures in Illinois," he continued. "When you create habitat for monarchs and other pollinators, it helps larger wildlife and plants."

## What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Victor Alvarado**, who has been named our May Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Victor is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Victor's expertise help you! You may reach Victor at 847-742-0003, or victor.alvarado@CountryFinancial.com, or https://representatives.

CountryFinancial.com/Victor.Alvarado/. Congratulations, Victor!

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

**Kevin Laurie**, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for May 2022. Kevin began his career with COUNTRY Financial in October of 2017 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 630.449.0917.

Kevin's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Kevin!

Mexican officials reported a 35% increase in the forested area where the butterflies stayed. The population covered 7 acres of trees compared to 5.2 acres the previous year. The annual butterfly count doesn't measure numbers of individual butterflies, but the area they cover when clumped in trees.

Monarch expert David Zaya, a plant ecologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, reported seeing his first monarchs of the season May 25. Earlier, Zaya had projected the first monarchs would start arriving in Illinois in late May.

"The overwintering monarch butterfly numbers each year should be viewed with an eye to the recent past, not only should we be looking at the 2.8 hectares (7 acres) from this year, but also at the trends in the last 10 or so years," Zaya told FarmWeek.

"My takeaway from the reports out of Michoacán (Mexico) is that monarch numbers this year are 'average' for the last seven years – actually the median, not exactly the aver-



Illinoisans can support monarchs by planting flowers, such as coneflowers and black-eyed Susans, for adult butterflies. Their larvae depend on milkweeds and only grow on plants in the milkweed family.

In Zaya's view, farmers and rural landowners have an opportunity to make an impact because of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other large-scale conservation

Experts projected this year's monarch increase could reflect the butterflies' ability to adapt to more extreme bouts of heat or drought by varying the date when they leave Mexico, according to the Associated Press.

Traditionally, the monarchs arrive in the Mexican forests in early November and leave for the U.S. in March.

Last year, the butterflies left in February and escaped the heat and drought just north of the border that came in April and May. This year, they stayed later until April.

Next year's numbers may reflect if the delay proved beneficial, according to a government commission spokesman.

Monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains overwinter on the California coast. This year, their numbers rebounded to more than 250,000 butterflies.

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to **Felipe Rocha**! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August, 2011. His office



Felipe Rocha

is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora and may be reached at: 630-897-7746.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

## Welcome to the next level

This month we welcome the following KCFB members who joined our organization or reclassified their membership in January to \*Regular or Professional Status:

We remind you of added perks

- | Regular Members  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Michelle DeRaedt | Batavia       |
| Eric Peterson    | Campton Hills |

that accompany your new Regular member or Professional Status and thank you for supporting KCFB's efforts at advocacy,

- education and hunger relief:
- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to FarmWeek, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to FarmWeekNow.com
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
- Continuing subscription to the Kane County Farmer newspaper
- Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences

- 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel
  - Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods
- \*KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in "next level" membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.*

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**CLASSIFIED AD RATES**  
Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$20 minimum (60 words or less). **DISCOUNTS** for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Advance payment requested. Ads due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted. Call 630-584-8660.

**WANTED**  
Love to sew? Looking for a creative team member to join our St. Charles custom sewing studio. Flexible, part-time hours to fit your schedule. Perfect for retiree, home maker, or student. Training provided. Call Susan at 925-336-0934 to apply.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** – 30-35 hours weekly, M-F. Applicant must be a computer literate, self-starter, with pleasant voice and manner, Some travel possible. Office located east side of St.

Charles. We offer vacation pay, self-directed savings plan, and partial tuition reimbursement. Perfect position for stay-at-home-Mom or college student. Call Bob or Laurie at 630-377-7797 to arrange interview.

Want to buy vintage & used tools. Also, we do cleanouts. Call Chris: 630-550-7182

**FOR SALE**  
Flatbed body for mid-size truck 19 1/2 x 8 feet, diamond plate deck. Good condition. Asking \$900. Call Drew: 630-514-2153

Vintage New Deal manure spreader complete unit with approximately 8' long x 3.5' wide x 2' tall material hopper. Complete pull behind spreader with all parts and large tractor tires. Some minor repairs needed to place back in service. Overall good condition. Free delivery available within 25 miles. Located in Wayne, IL. Available for inspection by appointment only. Asking price \$200 or best offer. Contact John at 781-795-6454 (mobile) or jdonleavy@gmail.com.

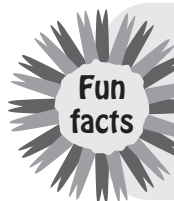
## Thanks to our donors

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received May 16 – June 15, 2022.



Donor	Beneficiary
Mona Carlson	KCFB Foundation

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to help support agricultural education, scholarships, leader-



Most vegetable plants need at least 8 hours of direct sun per day. Bugs can be beneficial to your garden. You can attract bees, butterflies and ladybugs by planting flowers such as sweet alyssum, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers. Create a natural bird feeder by planting sunflowers. You can leave the dry flower heads standing in your garden and watch as birds eat seeds right out of the flower head.

**Lucky's ENERGY SERVICE**

We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants – D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.

We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois – Wisconsin – Indiana  
Call us today at 847-994-3010 or visit us online at [www.luckysenergy.com](http://www.luckysenergy.com)  
Growing To Serve You Better

**Vintage Truck Raffle**  
KCFB Foundation

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (\$20 each, or 3 for \$50)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or charge my:

Visa  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_





# Visit KCFB at the Kane County Fair

The Kane County Fair will take place July 13-17, 2022 at the Fairgrounds on Randall Road in St. Charles.

Kane County Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and area FFA Chapters will be running several games of chance and skills contests at this year's County Fair, to help raise funds for the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Scholarship and Ag Literacy programs.

Stop by to learn more about student scholarships, Ag Literacy resources, membership benefits or just to visit with Farm Bureau staff, leaders and area FFA students. While you're there, for a small donation you can try your luck at golf (chipping or putting), or free throws, or a bean bag toss, for a 50/50 split of the pot in each contest to benefit the KCFB Foundation. We will also host a drawing

each day for one 25# box of fresh Illinois peaches, to be awarded upon delivery to our



office on August 16, in our annual peach sale. Additionally, our space on the fairgrounds will be dedicated to...

### Giant Jenga Farm & Food Trivia

Win a prize for yourself, your child or grandchild by successful completion of a trivia contest (alone or in competition). Prize values will increase with the number of correct answers given.



### Pesticides support food security

More often than wars, global trade disputes or extreme weather events, insects, diseases and weeds threaten the nation's food supply with relentless consistency, season after season.

Beetles eat corn silks, preventing full pollination of the ears. Stem rust disease can devastate wheat production. Weeds compete with food crops for the same air, sunlight, soil nutrients and moisture. We have a variety of tools to reduce the impact of these pests, with world crop losses already estimated at 40% lost to weeds, insects and diseases, according to the United Nations.

Without pesticides, that loss could double.

Pesticides, sometimes called chemicals and crop protection products, are critical to attaining a plentiful, affordable and diverse food supply, especially significant when fewer than 2% of people grow food for 100% of the population. Conventional and organic farmers alike have pesticides in their arsenal, whether man-made or naturally derived to kill pests, including insecticides for insects, fungicides for diseases and herbicides for weeds. And those products are taken seriously to ensure safety.

Pesticides are tested and approved: FDA, USDA and EPA test each product and must deem them safe before allowing

commercial use.

Applicators must be licensed: More often than a license to drive, farmers and hired applicators routinely

train and take an exam to attain mandatory certification before allowed to buy and apply the products.

Farmers try to use less: About 95% of the spray tank is water and only about a soda can's worth of active ingredient is applied across an acre, equivalent to the size of a football field. Changes in farming practices, such as adoption of GMOs has reduced my farm's insecticide use by half in the last 25 years while producing nearly 50% more corn per acre. In recent years, we have adopted cover crops, which helps control weeds to reduce herbicide needs.

Likewise, advancements in the technology to apply pesticides makes their use more accurate and effective than ever. As one of the most technologically advanced pieces of equipment on the farm, modern sprayers have automatic flow controls and shutoffs, droplet size adjustments, spray pattern variations and available sensors to scan crop health and weed infestations. Applicators pair these features with guidance technology and an in-cab computer system to prevent over-application, minimize off-target movement and enhance precision in placement and quantity, all to attain the goal of allowing food crops to thrive.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens.

### Bucket Raffles

Our popular KCFB Foundation College Scholarship Fundraiser will return for 2022 with a score of prizes donated by local merchants and your chance to win a prize or prize package for a \$1 ticket. We will again offer tickets with a volume discount (6 for \$5) and a FREE ice cream cone at the 4-H Foundation ice cream stand for those who purchase \$10 worth of tickets.

### Vintage Truck Raffle

The Farm Bureau building on the fairgrounds will also feature our 2022 Vintage Truck Raffle grand prize, a 1971 Chevrolet C10, with tickets available starting at \$20 each or 3/\$50 for this scholarship fund fundraiser.

As always, we will also have information on Farm Bureau member benefits, ice cold water, and farm animals for the kids. We hope our members and the public will stop by for a chat! See page 3 for a 2022 Kane County Fair schedule of events.

See you at the Kane County Fair!



## Drive-thru BBQ's for KCFB Foundation

Our next BBQ drive-thru is Thursday, July 14th on the parking lot at the Farm Bureau on Randall Road in St. Charles.

From 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., drive-thru diners can choose from 3 meals at \$16 each (if paid in advance), a 2 pork chop meal; or 2 chicken quarters; or a 1 pork chop, 1 chicken quarter combo. All meals will come with baked beans, coleslaw, apple sauce, a roll and butter.

The Farm Bureau parking lot will be set-up for fast and convenient drive-thru service, order for the entire family! Meals will also be available on a limited basis for drive-ups without a reservation at a slightly higher, \$17.00 price.

All sales will benefit the

KCFB Foundation and meal reservation, and pre-payment is encouraged. To reserve your meals and pre-pay, return the form on page 4 or call KCFB at 630-584-8660.

### KCFB Foundation/ Fay's BBQ Drive-Thru Fundraisers 2022

July 14  
Aug 11  
Sept 8  
Oct 13

At Kane County FB, Randall Rd. at Oak St., St. Charles

## Master Gardener Help Desk

University of Illinois Extension is still here to help you grow! They can assess and give advice on issues with vegetable and flower gardens, trees and lawns.

Please send a detailed message with your question to [uiemg-kane@illinois.edu](mailto:uiemg-kane@illinois.edu), and a

volunteer will get back to you. Please see the tips below to guide your submission.

In addition to your question, please include as much additional information as possible:

This could include planting date, age of plant, chemicals used, number of plants affected,

where found, patterns, when symptoms were first noticed, etc.

Please check your photos before submitting them. Are they clear and in-focus?

When possible, please include a size reference in your photos (such as a pen or ruler).

## Don't miss out on fresh Peaches



The Kane County Farm Bureau is now taking orders for juicy, home-grown Peaches fresh from Rendleman Orchards, a southern Illinois grower.

These delicious peaches are washed, hydro-cooled, graded to US #1 Extra, 2-1/2 inches and up in size, approximately 60 packaged in a 25 lb wax coated fancy box with a lid. They are delivered to our office on Randall Road the morning of pickup in a refrigerated truck for freshness and long lasting quality.

New add-on options this year – Rendleman Orchards Aunt Wesie's Old Fashioned Cobbler Mix or Rendleman Orchards Peach Crisp Mix. Each option has an easy-to-make mix for two, 8x8" cobblers or crisps or one, large 9x13". Each mix package is \$7.99.

The grower recommends the peaches, which are available in the month of August, for their sweetness and juicy flavor. If you like to make peach pie or cobbler, or you like to can or freeze peaches, now is the time to take advantage of this once a year offer.

Peaches are highly perishable. They are shipped when they are a little green so that when they arrive they are not bruised with juice running out of the box. The grower recommends that the peaches be refrigerated immediately when you get them unless you are planning to can or freeze them within the next day. Then when you want to use them, you can take out however many you think you will use in the next day, let them sit out in a paper sack overnight, and they should be ripe and ready to eat or cook with. Peaches should not be out of the refrigerator for more than 24 hours. If they are left out too long, they are very susceptible to mold.

The member price for a 25 lb. box is \$43.00 and Plus status members, \$40.85; non-member price is \$45.00. PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ORDER. You can order by filling out the form and sending it in with your check, or call the Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 and pay with a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Pick-up will be Tue, August 16 from 10:00am – 5:30pm at the Farm Bureau office.

### Quantity

\_\_\_\_\_ \$43.00 /box (members) \$40.85/box (Plus), \$45.00/box (Non-members)

\_\_\_\_\_ Aunt Wesie's Old Fashioned Cobbler Mix \_\_\_\_\_ Peach Crisp Mix (\$7.99 each)

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS 4PM Wednesday, August 10

Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Tuesday, August 16 from 10:00a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Like us on Facebook for a weekly helping of humor – our Friday Farming Funnies. You'll also find the latest info about ag education, local farming folks and news and upcoming events and specials at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Happy Independence Day!